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Tarble Arts Center Newsletter February 1996

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TARBLE ARTS CENTER

Newsletter • February 1996



EXHIBITIONS

WENDY CALMAN: *FRANKLINSTEIN* AND OTHER CONSTRUCTIONS

-- through February 25, Main Galleries

The large-scale interactive kinetic sculpture installation *Franklinstein* is the centerpiece of this solo exhibition of works by Wendy Calman. Sitting on the stool in the parlor activates sound, movement, and music -- *Franklinstein* rocks in his chair, nods, taps fingers and foot, and speaks quotations from Benjamin Franklin's writing while music composed by Franklin plays in the background. Three other pieces in the exhibition also use Franklin as source or subject, *Ben and Me*, *Bubba Ben (Needling the New Nation)*, and *The Flying Franklin Lighting Show*, which is also kinetic and viewer interactive. As these and titles like *Ben Her* and *Anilla the Nun* suggest, humor is a common element in Calman's work. The artist seeks to utilize humor as a means of initially engaging the viewer.

Also to be found in all of Calman's work is the unconventional application of printmaking methods with materials other than the traditional paper or cloth. Calman uses photo-intaglio, photo-screenprint, photo-lithograph, photo-etching, and the commercial printing processes of Kwik-Print and Kodolith, often combined with more traditional printmaking methods of embossing, engraving, and intaglio. These processes are used in combination with a wide variety of materials (wood, plastic, metal, paint, cloth, corn husk, corn cob, metal, plastic, Indiana limestone, poplar, paint) to achieve works that are multi-layered physically, visually, and in meaning or interpretation. Beyond visual characteristics, Calman also incorporates elements of sound and even smell in selected works. The result is often a rather startling and seductive combination of familiar images (Ben Franklin, corn, the chariot scene from *Ben Hur*), materials, and sensations.

Wendy Calman is an associate professor in the School of Fine Arts at Indiana University where she teaches printmaking. She holds an MFA and M Ed. from the Tyler School of Art, Temple University, and a BA in art history from the University of Pittsburgh. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She will present a gallery talk about her work

at 2pm on February 25. This program is co-sponsored by the EIU Art Department.

THIS HAS BEEN: PHOTOGRAPHS BY LOU MARCUS

-- *through February 25, Main Galleries*

The emphasis in Lou Marcus' work is on photography as an art medium rather than a means of journalistic documentation. Much of Marcus' recent work deals with the interrelationships and emotional distances between people. In spite of the very personal quality of his photographs, there is an anonymity to Marcus' subjects. The individuality of the people depicted is sublimated by cropping or distorting the image.

Manipulation of the photographic process contributes significantly to the vision as well as the image presented by Marcus. The visual/physical filtering used in making these photographs -- cropping, crumpled transparent overlays, grainy enlargements, photographs of photographs -- can create a distancing of the image's "source" that we are unaccustomed to in such a seemingly literal media. Ironically, this distancing heightens interest in the "source" because it is not easily recognized or understood. That the photographs are presented in groupings (diptychs, series, and modular installations) involves an actual physical relationship among the interrelated elements. This distancing, both visual and physical, might be seen as a metaphor for our interpersonal relationships as individuals and as a society.

Lou Marcus is an associate professor of Fine Arts at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He received an MFA from the University of Colorado, an MA in Media Studies from the New School for Social Research, New York City, and a BA in psychology from Brooklyn College. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts regional fellowship, Marcus' photography has been exhibited throughout the United States. Marcus will present a slide lecture about his photography at 7pm on February 8. This program is co-sponsored by the EIU Art Department.

VINCE SMITH: RECENT CONSTRUCTIONS AND PAINTINGS

-- *January 26 - March 3, Brainard Gallery*

The art of Vince Smith explores his African-American heritage through constructions and mixed media paintings. A sense of melancholy pervades many of the artist's works, due in part to the materials Smith selects for his found-object constructions (old photographs, memorabilia) and to the color and texture applied to the painted surfaces. There is often symbolic purpose in the objects Smith uses for his constructions. Suitcases and trunks serve as the underlying element in a number of works, simultaneously implying a sense of rootlessness and containment. Containment and bondage is more obviously indicated through shackles,

chains, straps, bars, and cords. Dolls and figurines from the earlier part of this century remind us of a stereotyping of African Americans that was common not too many years ago and persists today. Irony and satire, created by Smith through a combination of these elements, turns the mean spirit of these stereotyped figures back on those who would see humor in such bigoted representations.

Smith's paintings are layered and textured, with incised lines and built-up surfaces. Although most use the human figure as subject matter, some are more abstract. States Smith, "I make stuff. I find, paint and carve things. I like to 'fool the eye' into enjoying the different feelings provided by each of the surfaces in my work. I enjoy 'deep' paintings -- not deep mentally as much as rich, offering a lot to look at, paintings that reveal different things every time one views them."

Smith holds an MFA from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, concentrating in painting and printmaking, and a BFA from Millikin University. In 1994 Smith received an honorable mention from the WESTAF/NEA Regional Fellowships for Visual Artists, and in 1993 he received the Carey Orness Award in Sculpture and an Art Saint Louis Honor Award solo exhibition. He currently lives in Chicago. He will present a slide lecture about his work at 7pm, January 30. This program is co-sponsored by the EIU Art Department and African American Studies.

EVENTS

REGISTRATION IS STILL BEING ACCEPTED FOR ART CLASSES

-- *deadlines for most classes are in early to mid-February*

Registration is still being accepted for a variety of art classes and workshops for children and adults which begin on February 14th. Classes for children include *Introduction to Clay* for ages 4-5, *Painting I* for ages 6-9, *Painting II* and *Young People's Ceramics* for ages 10-14, and *Painting in the Style of...* for junior and senior high school age students. Course offerings for adults, ages 16 and up, include *Figure Drawing and Portraiture* and *Quilting: Log Cabin*. Workshops designed for students of various ages include *Jewelry in Many Media*, *Native American Pottery*, and *Instant Art: The Manipulated Polaroid Photograph*. Most course fees cover both instruction and supplies; Tarble members receive a 20% discount. Contact the Tarble for a free brochure.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT: JAMES GILBERTSEN, TROMBONIST

-- *February 4, 3pm*

James Gilbertsen is the associate principal trombonist of the Chicago

Symphony Orchestra. He holds a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Northwestern University. While attending Northwestern Gilbertsen studied with Frank Crisafulli, former principal trombonist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. As a sophomore Gilbertsen was selected as principal trombonist of the Florida Symphony Orchestra in Orlando. He joined the Chicago Symphony in 1968. During the Chicago Symphony's season Gilbertsen also performs in many ensemble groups, giving concerts in schools and retirement homes throughout the Chicago area. He also has been a soloist with the Beloit-Janesville Symphony and in many churches.

Admission to the Chamber Music Series concert is \$4.50, \$2.50 for seniors and students, or by season subscription. Tickets are available at the door the day of the concert, or in advance from the EIU Music Department, co-sponsor of the series. Call the Music Department office at 217/581-3010 for ticket information.

ARTIST'S SLIDE LECTURE: LOU MARCUS

-- February 8, 7pm

A slide lecture in conjunction with his solo exhibition. Please see EXHIBITIONS for more information.

ARTIST'S GALLERY TALK: WENDY CALMAN

-- February 25, 2pm

A gallery talk in conjunction with her solo exhibition. Please see EXHIBITIONS for more information.

FROM THE CURATOR

The first educational program of the spring semester, the 1996 Art Enrichment Program, is currently being offered free of charge to junior and senior high school art teachers and their students. The program was developed in association with Dr. Gene Harrison of EIU's Art Department, and is presented by Art Education students enrolled in Art 3410. In this tour/studio program, participants will first be taken through a guided tour of *this has been: photographs by Lou Marcus*, followed by a hands-on altered Polaroid/Xerography workshop in the Tarble classroom. Participants will compose a self-portrait using Polaroid snapshots of themselves that have been manipulated with a stylus, which adds a "painterly" look to the photo. Students will then compose Xeroxed images that have been colored with colored pencils on their paper to finish their self-portrait collage. Composition, color, and content will be stressed during the workshop.

The program will serve approximately 300 participants from 12 area

schools. Participating schools are Arthur Junior High School, Central A&M High School, Moweaqua; Charleston Junior High School, Chrisman High School, Effingham's Crossroads Center, Cumberland Elementary and Junior High School, Lake Land College's Pathways program, Martinsville Junior/Senior High School, Mattoon Junior and Senior High Schools, Shelbyville High School and Sullivan High School.

Spring classes and workshops begin on February 14th. Several new classes are being offered, including *Jewelry in Many Media* and *Instant Art: The Manipulated Polaroid Photograph*. Complete course descriptions may be found in the *Classes and Workshops for Spring 1995* brochure from the December 1995/January 1996 Tarble newsletter. Additional brochures may be obtained by phoning the Tarble at 581-2787.

--Kit Morice

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As anyone who has read my comments over any length of time knows, support for the Tarble Arts Center and its programs comes from many sources: state appropriations to Eastern provides for salaries, utilities and support services, and some operating funds; grants from various agencies, especially the Illinois Arts Council, membership contributions (like those from the many individuals listed in this newsletter), and proceeds from a modest endowment provide the bulk of support for programs; in-kind donations are a primary means to add to the permanent collection; and special funding supports special projects, like Consolidated Communications Inc.'s sponsorship of the traveling children's art exhibit.

The continued generous support of Mrs. N.E. Tarble merits special mention. Because of Mrs. Tarble's on-going support, it has been possible to maintain, and even improve, this wonderful facility made possible by the initial gift of her late husband, Newton E. Tarble. In addition to things such as renovations of the galleries' exhibit walls and up-grading of the humidification system, Mrs. Tarble's support has also helped to support outreach efforts like the *Amish of Illinois* traveling exhibit, and major exhibitions, including last month's *Art from the Driver's Seat: Americans and Their Cars*. All those who benefit from the Tarble Arts Center and its programs are truly indebted to Mrs. Tarble.

Last month I thanked the many volunteers who assist the Tarble Arts Center, but I failed to mention those who served as RSVP gallery attendant substitutes last year. Our thanks to these folk too, who were, in order of appearance: Dorothy Robinson, Fairy Lanman, Connie McCarthy, Charles and Elizabeth Tucker, Louise Campbell, Loretta Harrison, Les Dawson, and

Helen Schneider. I hope I haven't missed anyone!

-- Michael Watts

NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS

-- November 16 - January 15

Benefactor

James & Karen McKechnie

Sustaining Patron

Frank & Janet Fraembs

Supporting Patron

Douglas & Gail Bock

Bob & Therese Supple Kinkade

Jon & Joann Laible

Sue O'Brien

Charles & Marilyn Switzer

Earl & Meg Tarble

Max & Miriam Tarble

Family Patron

Camille Compo

John & Dana Deffenbaugh

Alphonso DiPietro

Robert & Nancy Hennings

Glenn & Susan Hild

Ken Matzner & Jackie Worden

Douglas & Joann Meyer

J.W. & Marilyn Oglesby

Bill & Jayne Ozier

John & Phyllis Rearden

Roger & Stephany Rives

Steve & Jolene Whitley

Wayne Winekauf & Jerie Weasmer

Individual Patron

Joyce Allen

Patricia Coulton

Richard Crouse

Joe Dively

Mrs. Leo J. Dvorak

Helen Graham

Debbie Hesterman

Carolyn Brown Hodge

(Individual Patron, con't.)

James Hoker

Dr. Ann Jackson

Paul Kirby

Janet Marquardt

Jill Martinez

Linda Miller

Nettie Resch

Harriet Rose

Mike Sanders

Sr. Rosemary Schmalz

Mary Thompson

Jan Wetzel

Senior/Student Patron

Willa Ashby

Violet Farmer

Jean Grant

Dr. Dorothy Hart

Mary Kessler

Edna Kniskern

Rosa Lane

Wendell Lathrop

Martha Llach

Miss Bertha Mathias

Sue McKenna

Don & Glorine Otto

Albert & Carolyn Paul

Jean Seitsinger

Dr. Ruby Smith

Hazel Sonderman

Helen Straith

Charles Tucker

Robert & Leyla Waddell

Louise Wagner

Grace Wheaton

Ruth White

Allegra Wilber

Jack Wyeth

UPCOMING FOR MARCH

1996 All-Student Show -- *March 2 - 31*

All-Student Show Opening Reception & Awards Presentation

-- *March 3, 2-4pm*

Jeanette May: Photographs -- *March 8 - April 6*

Chamber Music Concert: EIU Music Faculty Ensembles -- *March 10, 3pm*

Slide Lecture: Duane Elbert on the Illinois Quilt Project -- *March 13, 7:30pm*

Slide Lecture: Jeanette May -- *March 28, 7pm*

IN THE GIFT SHOP & SALES/RENTAL GALLERY

If you are looking for something special for your Valentine or for Mother's Day, the Gift Shop has a wide array of handmade jewelry, including earrings, necklaces, pins, pendants, rings, and a new shipment of Lub bracelets. There are also unique, handmade cards, ranging from mini-watercolor landscapes and florals by Helen Graham to abstract collages by Jeanine Abels. To kick the winter-time blues, try a spring or summer landscape from the Sales/Rental Gallery's watercolor paintings by area artists.

Staff: Michael Watts, Director Kit Morice, Curator of Education
David Pooley, Registrar Fran Wittenberg, Secretary

James K. Johnson, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

Volunteer Coordinators:

Maggie Hollowell & Corrine Joyner, Docent Education Program
Victoria Woollen-Danner, Gift Shop
Barbara Watts, Sales/Rental Gallery



Tarble Arts Center
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Charleston IL 61920-3099

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Charleston, Illinois

Open Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 1- 4pm; Closed Mondays and holidays. Admission is free unless otherwise noted. For information or to schedule a group tour, telephone 217/581-ARTS(2787). The Tarble Arts Center is located on South Ninth Street at Cleveland Avenue, on the Eastern Illinois University campus. The Tarble Arts Center is partially supported by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and by Tarble Arts Center membership contributions.
